



Newsleak

South Carolina DHEC's Drinking Water Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 3 . Spring 2006

SC DHEC • Bureau of Water

Protect South Carolina's Drinking Water Resources

by Stacey Adams, Source Water Protection Program

As a drinking water operator you have a lot of responsibilities. Between dealing with day-to-day water plant operations and making sure you meet sampling and reporting requirements, it is easy to overlook an important tool that can assist you in your mission to provide your community with clean, safe drinking water. Most of you have probably heard the term "Source Water Protection" before and remember receiving a Source Water Assessment (SWA) report from DHEC. "Source water" is a term used to refer to a drinking water source, be it a groundwater aquifer or a surface water supply. A copy of your water system's most recent SWA is available on the DHEC Web site at <http://www.scdhec.gov/water/html/srcwtr.html#reports>.

Several improvements have been made in the SWA method, and the staff involved in the Source Water Protection Program at DHEC have recently begun a statewide update of all public water

system information. New SWA reports are in the works for the majority of the state's water systems. After receiving your new SWA, DHEC encourages you to design a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) for your system. A guide to developing a SWPP is available on the DHEC Web site at <http://www.scdhec.gov/water/html/srcwtr.html>. Establishing a SWPP for your system makes good economic sense and demonstrates your concern for public health and the environment. Both DHEC and the South Carolina Rural Water Association would like to help you plan and implement a protection strategy for your water system and local community. Therefore, we have staff available to assist you in preparing your plan. To schedule a Source Water Assessment update, obtain technical assistance, or to ask questions about drinking water protection for your water system, call Stacey Adams at (803) 898-3280, or e-mail adamssd@dhec.sc.gov.

Free Training

South Carolina Environmental Training Center

The Environmental Training Center is offering a training program for public water systems serving 3,300 or fewer persons. The program is designed to prepare entry level operators for state certification exams and/or to assist licensed operators of qualified facilities in obtaining the necessary continuing education contact hours for license maintenance. For more information, call (803) 778-6656.

Inside this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Source Water Protection..... | 1 |
| Construction Permitting Process | 2 |
| CCR and Total Organic Carbon | 2 |
| The Art of Water | 2 |
| Operator Exam Information | 3 |
| CCR Award | 3 |
| Enforcement Report..... | 3 |



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

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Good Economic Sense

Prevention is cheaper than remediation or source relocation.

Good Public Health Sense

Drinking contaminated water can cause serious health problems.

Good Environmental Sense

Water is a renewable resource only if we protect quality and quantity.

Construction Permitting Process

by Mark Noble, SRF Program

Our permitting division receives numerous applications.

Each application is subject to an administrative and feasibility review before its technical aspects can be assessed.

Each new application must be reviewed to ensure the package is administratively complete. Three copies of the application, plans and specs must be submitted along with a check for the correct review fee. Any missing documentation regarding the administrative review must be received by DHEC before a technical review can begin.

A project's feasibility review, however, may proceed while its technical review is on hold. A feasibility review answers the question *"Is another source of potable water, instead of constructing a new well, readily available for this project?"*

Reviewing feasibility is a component of the state's capacity development strategy. The consulting engineer is required to canvass public water systems in the surrounding area to determine if any have the capacity to provide the applicant with potable water. Generally, if the applicant's location is adjacent to a public water system that is willing and able to provide it with water, then the construction application will be denied.

If another public water system is nearby, but not adjacent to the project's location, then the estimated cost of constructing a new system must be compared to the estimated costs for connecting to that nearby system. A determination will be made of which alternative will be most financially feasible to the applicant. If connecting to another system is not feasible, then a test well permit is issued to the applicant and the permitting process continues.

The Art of Water



Trucker Mike has done it, and Sean Crane has too. Recent articles from the Associated Press and the National Environmental Services Center's magazine, *On Tap*, have highlighted a unique use of drinking water industry structures. They are showing up as expressive works of art. Trucker Mike has been capturing water towers as he travels the world, and Sean Crane just released a book that captures the flavor of American cities using pictures of fire hydrants. You can enjoy Trucker Mike's shots at <http://www.mikiemetric.cc/WaterTowers.html>, and you can pick up a copy of Sean Crane's book, *American Hydrant*, at most any on-line bookstore.

As of 2005, the EPA updated the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Guidance Document on how to report Total Organic Carbon (TOC) for surface water plants. Information on how to fill out this part of the CCR is listed below. Results should be listed in chart form in the report.

MCL = (Treatment Technique) TT

MCLG = (Not Applicable) NA

Level Found - Refer to column A on page 15 of your December Monthly Operating Report (MOR). Calculate an average of the 12 monthly samples. This gives the average of actual TOC removal.

Level Required - This result goes under average percent removal. To find this, go to column B on page 15 of the December MOR. There it lists the required percent to be removed.

Range - See column A of your December MOR and put the lowest and highest of the twelve monthly samples in percent form.

Sampling Date - Will be monthly.

Typical Source - Naturally present in the environment.

If you have a violation, you must summarize it in the CCR.



If you have any questions about your CCR, contact Frank Dukes at (803) 898-3988 or e-mail dukeswf@dhec.sc.gov.

Exam Information

According to the Environmental Certification Board (ECB), operator examinations are administered by computer at more than 150 Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) Assessment Centers located throughout the United States. The examinations are administered by appointment only Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The cost of the exams is \$95 each. A current listing of AMP Assessment Centers, including addresses and driving directions, may be viewed at AMP's Web site located at <http://www.goAMP.com>.

Available dates will be indicated when scheduling the examination. Candidates are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit the ECB's Web site at <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/environmental/>.

EPA Announces CCR Awards

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 has announced the winners in the Region Four 2004 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Awards. The award categories are based on system size.

The criteria for the awards include: listing the source of drinking water (surface water, groundwater, or a combination); the system's susceptibility to contamination based on a completed Source Water Assessment (SWA) and information on how to obtain a copy of the SWA; a list of likely sources and potential health effects of detected contaminants; compliance with state and federal standards; water utility phone number and meeting dates; the Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline number; a table with appropriate conversions and explanations for detected contaminants. Extra points are given for community outreach and education activities.



The CCR rule requires community water systems to provide annual reports to customers on the quality of their drinking water.

***Congratulations to
South Carolina Water system
Palm Key of Beaufort-Jasper
Water and Sewer Authority
for winning a CCR award
in the category of Small
Ground Water System.***

Enforcement Division Report

From October 1 - December 31, 2005, the Enforcement Division issued two Consent Agreements, 50 Consent Orders, and four Administrative Orders. The Water Enforcement Division assessed approximately \$449,269 during the fourth quarter of 2005.

More information about enforcement activities within DHEC may be found at <http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/admin/html/eqcmain.html#Enforcement>.

Enforcement Actions October 1-December 31, 2005

| | *(CA) | (CO) | (AO) | (EO) |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|
| Agricultural Facilities | | | | |
| Capacity Use | | | | |
| Dams and Reservoirs | | | | |
| Drinking Water | | 11 | 02 | |
| Groundwater | 02 | | | |
| NPDES | | 19 | | |
| Pollution Control Act | | 08 | 02 | |
| Recreational Waters | | 08 | | |
| Residential Wells | | | | |
| Stormwater and Sediment Control | | 04 | | |

**Consent Agreement/Consent Order/Administrative Order/Emergency Order*

Bureau of Water Telephone Numbers

Main Telephone Number
(803) 898-4300

Main Fax Number
(803) 898-4215

Local Environmental Quality Control Offices

Aiken Office.....(803) 641-7670
Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun

Anderson Office.....(864) 260-5569
Anderson, Oconee

Beaufort Office(843) 846-1030
Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton

Charleston Office.....(843) 740-1590
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester

Columbia Office.....(803) 896-0620
Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield

Florence Office.....(843) 661-4825
Florence, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield

Greenville Office.....(864) 241-1090
Greenville, Pickens

Greenwood Office.....(864) 223-0333
Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick

Lancaster Office.....(803) 285-7461
Lancaster, Chester, York

Myrtle Beach Office.....(843) 238-4378
Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg

Spartanburg Office(864) 596-3800
Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union

Sumter Office.....(803) 778-6548
Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon

For Information Call . . .

Lead and Copper

Amanda Kraft (803) 898-3794

Bacteriological Monitoring Program

Celeste Sugg (803) 898-4156

THM and SWTR compliance

Leslie Owens (803) 898-4149

Radiological compliance

Idris Liban (803) 898-3573

IOC, VOC, and SOC compliance

Idris Liban (803) 898-3573

State Safe Drinking Water Act Fees

Martey Chaney (803) 898-3554

Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control

John Watkins (803) 898-3567

Permitting of sources and treatment

Shawn Clarke (803) 898-3544

Permitting of water distribution lines

Wayne Stokes (803) 898-4159

Status of permit applications

Patty Barnes (803) 898-3550

Disinfectants/Disinfection By-product Rule

Richard Welch (803) 898-3546

Consumer Confidence Report

Frank Dukes (803) 898-3988

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